

# Moving out of poverty – making migration work better for poor people



Cover photograph: Migrants building China's Olympic Stadium (© Gideon Mendel/Corbis)

---

# Moving out of poverty – making migration work better for poor people

Published by the Department for International Development

March 2007



# Foreword

---

For many poor people around the world migration is a way of life, and has been for centuries.

But globalisation has radically altered the scale of migration: people are now more aware of opportunities elsewhere and it has become easier for them to travel. Women in Asian countries now travel to the Gulf States and back. Millions of Chinese people travel within China every year to work. Across the developing world, the movement between rural and urban areas is rising. By 2020, most people in Asia will be living in urban areas, and the same will be true of Africa ten years later.

Why do people choose to migrate? To take advantage of jobs elsewhere, to use their skills better, or simply because there are few opportunities to earn a living where they are. Whatever the reason, many migrants and their families benefit from the experience. The result is a vast increase in the money people send home: for example in Ghana recorded remittances are about the same as aid flows, around \$1 billion a year; governments are beginning to encourage their diaspora to invest; and people are returning home with new skills and a fresh outlook on life. There is still untapped potential in legal migration, which can be a spur for development.

Globalisation is increasing the demand for both skilled labour, and for cheap and flexible labour, particularly in richer countries in which societies are ageing. In my own constituency in Leeds, if it wasn't for migrant labour – the Irish who helped build the city in the 19th century; those from the Indian sub-continent who came to work in the textile mills; and now the doctors and nurses from across the globe – Leeds would not be as it is or work as it does.

But we should not ignore the risks, particularly when people move illegally. The involvement of criminal gangs in the trafficking and smuggling of people continues to represent a real challenge. In many instances individuals and families may find themselves experiencing harassment and violence, and facing increased poverty.

But if governments can manage migration, we can unlock many more benefits for poor people in developing countries. The World Bank has put a figure on this potential. It estimates that by 2025 migration could put over US\$140 billion a year into the pockets of people in poor countries.<sup>1</sup> This is almost three times more than the historic commitments leaders made to double aid at the G8 meeting at Gleneagles in 2005.

<sup>1</sup> World Bank (2006). *Global Economic Prospects*, page 34. The statistics are based on economic analysis of global trends over the last thirty years and assumes a continuation at the same rate. In its analysis the World Bank implies no judgement about whether an increase is likely or politically feasible.

---

Despite this, migration remains a controversial issue. Discussions about the consequences of migration take place in communities and societies all around the world in both developed and developing countries. People talk about the impact of irregular migration, the loss of much-needed skills, social tensions and the rights of newcomers.

What we need is a balanced debate about migration: one that ensures that we do not stop poor people benefiting, but one that also tackles its negative consequences and dispels the myths.

I hope that this policy paper can contribute to this debate and illustrate how well-managed migration can be a positive force for development. The UK, together with others, is committed to supporting developing countries' efforts to make the most of migration, helping them to manage the risks and realise the benefits, so that they can make progress in fighting poverty.

**Rt Hon Hilary Benn MP**

Secretary of State for International Development

# Contents

---

	Page
<b>Executive summary</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Chapter 1 Introduction</b>	<b>4</b>
Scale and types of migration	5
‘Forced’ migration	6
Globalisation shapes migration	8
<b>Chapter 2 Migration, poverty reduction and development links</b>	<b>10</b>
Migration and the Millennium Development Goals	11
Migrant remittances can reduce poverty	13
Migration influences social and political development	18
Diasporas contribute to poverty reduction and development	21
<b>Chapter 3 Making migration work for the poor</b>	<b>24</b>
Migration management	24
Planning for internal mobility	25
Opportunities for legal migration	27
Supporting the circulation of high-skilled migrants	28
Addressing the rights of migrants	30
<b>Chapter 4 Regional and international policy framework</b>	<b>33</b>
Increasing the benefits of regional migration	33
UK policy coherence and working within the European Union	35
International management of migration	36
<b>Chapter 5 Migration can benefit the poor: The forward agenda for DFID</b>	<b>37</b>
Enhancing the poverty-reduction and development benefits by planning for migration	37
Managing migration to support the benefits to poor people and developing countries	38
Working with regional and international institutions	39
<b>Annex References</b>	<b>41</b>



# Executive summary

---

Assessing and responding to the impact of **voluntary economic migration** on development is a relatively new area of work for DFID.<sup>2</sup> This paper sets out DFID's policy, which is shaped by our mission to reduce poverty, and is consistent with the current UK policy framework on immigration<sup>3</sup>, including the Home Office Immigration and Nationality Directorate Review. The aim of our work on migration is to increase the benefits and reduce the risks of migration for poor people and developing countries. The paper focuses on poor people who take a decision to leave their home and move through regular channels<sup>4</sup> within their country of origin, or across international borders, in an attempt to improve their economic situation. It recognises that movement within national borders and defined regions is by far the most significant form of migration for poor people, and can help reduce poverty. DFID will therefore incorporate efforts to address migration into development policies and programmes. The paper identifies the main policy approaches that can help reduce poverty, bring about the development benefits of migration and reduce the risks. Although aimed primarily at development professionals, the paper recognises the important role of migration partners at national, regional and international level. It ends by setting out DFID's plans for future work on migration and development.

**People have been on the move since human life began. Migration is neither a new phenomenon, a failure of development, nor a substitute for development.**

When people move, they do so over varying distances, for different periods of time and for different reasons. Migration is undertaken by energetic and resourceful individuals who move as part of their effort to improve their lives and the lives of their families, to learn new skills, to gain new experiences, to find a job or to flee insecurity, disaster, or famine. Migration is an economic, social and political process that affects those who move, those who stay behind, and the places where they go. Migration should be a voluntary and informed choice.

**Although people have always moved, current flows are more than ever influenced by globalisation.** Globalisation has enabled and requires the increased mobility of people, as well as the mobility of capital, goods and services. At the international level, skilled and unskilled people from developing countries are meeting labour gaps in more developed economies. At a national level, whether rural or urban, areas where growth and development are occurring offer important economic opportunities for men and women looking to improve their way of life.

<sup>2</sup> The distinction between voluntary economic migration and other forms of migration – stimulated for example by conflict, human rights abuses and environmental stress – is a difficult one. The term is used therefore in order to provide a framework for discussion.

<sup>3</sup> Home Office (2005). *Controlling our Borders: Making migration work for Britain*.

<sup>4</sup> This refers to 'migration that occurs through recognized, legal channels'. IOM (2004). *International Migration Law: Glossary on Migration*.

**For poor people, opportunities to migrate into low-skilled jobs can and do offer a rapid route out of poverty.** Economic analysis suggests that if global trends over the last thirty years continue, temporary migration to industrialised countries may lead to gains of as much as US\$300 billion a year in 2025, shared equally between people in developing and developed countries.<sup>5</sup> Much of the gain would come from the migration of unskilled workers to meet labour market needs. **If well managed, migration has the potential to support the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and to improve poor people's lives.** It is important therefore, that development policy and planning to reduce poverty takes account of the complexity of migration, and the different ways in which poor men, women and children may benefit from, or lose out as a result of, migration.

**Migration can benefit poor people, poor communities and developing countries.** Migration can help individuals and their families to increase their income, learn new skills, improve their social status, build up assets and improve their quality of life. For communities and developing countries, emigration can relieve labour-market and political pressures; result in money being sent home (commonly known as remittances); increase trade and financial investment from abroad; and lead to support from migrant communities (diaspora) such as technology transfer, tourism and charitable activities.

The benefits of migration are not realised when developing countries lack the capacity to manage internal and external movements, lose their 'best' people and fail to make the most of diaspora activities – including remittances. In destination areas an inflow of migrants can lead to decreased wages, unemployment and social and political tensions. **Well-managed migration regimes can help to make the most of the potential benefits and reduce the risks when people move.**

**Migration also carries risks** – both to migrants and to those countries sending and receiving them. Many migrants, particularly those who migrate through irregular channels, find themselves in vulnerable positions before, during and after their journey. This may result in migrants being poorer and facing harassment, exclusion and increased debt; and may put pressure on countries of destination. In these situations, the rights that migrants are entitled to can help mitigate some of the worst outcomes. Although all migrants share fundamental human rights, in practice, in many areas of the world, many migrants are unable to exercise the rights to which they may be entitled under international and national law.

<sup>5</sup> World Bank (2006). *Global Economic Prospects*, page 41. The statistics are based on economic analysis of global trends over the last thirty years and assumes a continuation at the same rate. In its analysis the World Bank implies no judgement about whether an increase is likely or politically feasible.

**Poverty, conflict and bad governance lead some poor people to feel that they have no option other than to leave** and search for a better life elsewhere. These people will often travel through irregular and dangerous routes. DFID is working on the factors that lead poor people to feel they are forced to leave. Through its focus on reducing poverty, DFID's programmes support partner countries' commitment to promote good governance, fight corruption and uphold human rights. DFID programmes provide social assistance, humanitarian assistance, health and education services, skills training and livelihood opportunities which can mean that vulnerable people have the chance to remain in the country in which they are living. Such work may create more opportunities for those returning home.

Given the range of benefits and risks that can result from migration, it is important that migration policies take account of their impact on poverty reduction and vice versa. **To maximise the benefits and reduce the risks of migration for poor people and developing countries, a number of important issues need to be addressed:**

- managing migration at national level and planning for internal mobility;
- opportunities for legal migration including low-skilled migration where these meet the labour-market needs of receiving countries;
- facilitating the circulation of highly skilled migrants;
- migrants' access to their human rights and their legitimate entitlements under national law;
- low-cost and secure mechanisms for sending remittances and investing them in poor communities;
- support for positive diaspora activity; and
- managing migration at regional and international levels.

In its analysis of the poverty reduction and development impacts of migration, this paper focuses on poor men and women who migrate through regular channels within or from their countries of origin. The paper looks at the relationship between migration and poverty reduction and development, including the possible impact on the MDGs. It outlines the way in which migrants make a contribution to development and poverty reduction through their financial remittances (money sent to their home communities), social and political influence and ‘diaspora activities’ – such as technology transfer, tourism and charitable activities. The paper then goes on to look at the kind of issues that should be reflected in the development and implementation of poverty reduction and managed migration policies to ensure poor people and developing countries benefit. Finally, it acknowledges the role of a range of development and migration partners and sets out DFID’s future agenda for work in this area.

**People migrate over varying distances for different periods of time.** Poor people, in particular, usually move within their own country. Sometimes they move to neighbouring countries and of course some men and women move thousands of miles to distant lands. The time period over which people move can be days, weeks and months; be adapted to meet seasonal or family needs; or be long-term or permanent.

**The reasons for migration and the benefits and risks involved vary greatly between localities, countries and regions and from migrant to migrant.** Although migration is often viewed as ‘voluntary’ or ‘forced’, the distinction can be artificial as people do not always feel they have a choice about migrating. In many situations, where employment or agricultural possibilities are declining or there is conflict or persecution, their leaving is clearly not a ‘choice’ but is due to destruction of the economic, political and social infrastructure required for survival. Even in the most difficult circumstances some people will make the decision to move and others will decide to stay.

**The lack of access to rights that men and women may experience when they migrate can determine whether migration is a positive or negative experience for those involved.** Migrants often have difficulty accessing their rights and entitlements, compared with people who are not migrants. The impact of this is negative and may be particularly severe for female migrants. As a result of being both female and foreign, migrant women can face discrimination and limited access to formal employment, social security and health programmes.<sup>6</sup>

<sup>6</sup> IOM (2005). *Migration and the Millennium Development Goals: Workshop Discussion Paper*.

## Scale and types of migration

**The reliability and availability of migration data varies.** This means that in some areas we know very little about the size and flows of migration. Information can be limited when people move within their country or a developing country region or if they move through irregular channels – those that are neither recognised nor legal. We do know, however, that the level of resources – finances, skills and networks – available to men and women, combined with the potential opportunities at the end of the journey, determines the distances they travel. Consequently, **movement within national borders is by far the most significant form of migration for poor people**, both in terms of the volume and potential impact on poverty reduction. For example, close to 120 million people were estimated to migrate internally for work in China in 2001 against less than half a million people migrating internationally. In India, too, internal migration involves millions of people while international migration is only a fraction of this.<sup>7</sup> Internal migration, however, is sometimes a first step in building up the resources needed to migrate across international borders.

**The most common form of international migration for poor men and women – known as South-South migration – is the short-distance movements into a neighbouring country or to a country within their own region.** In Africa, migration has long been an important way for people to survive and improve their lives and it takes place mainly within the continent and without formal permission. Regional migration across South Asia is also widespread, with movements from Bangladesh, Nepal and Pakistan to northern states of India. Similarly, there is increasing movement within specific regions of East Asia.<sup>8</sup>

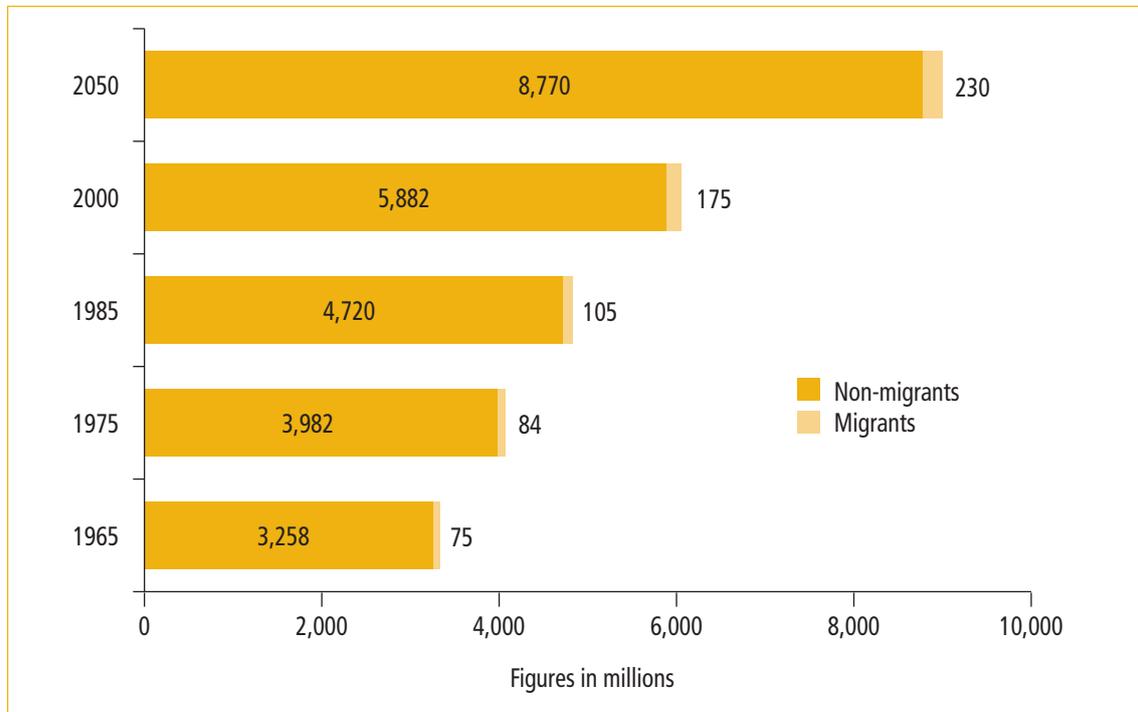
At the international level there are around **200 million migrants who have lived in a country other than where they were born for more than 12 months.** Around half of these international migrants are women.<sup>9</sup>

<sup>7</sup> Deshingkar, P. and Grimm, S. (2004). *Voluntary Internal Migration: An Update*. Overseas Development Institute.

<sup>8</sup> Deshingkar, P. and Grimm, S. (2004). *Voluntary Internal Migration: An Update*. Overseas Development Institute.

<sup>9</sup> IOM (2005). *World Migration 2005. Costs and Benefits of International Migration*.

Graph 1: World population – non-migrants and migrants (figures in millions) 1965-2050<sup>10</sup>



### 'Forced' migration

**Poverty, conflict and bad governance lead some poor people to feel that they have no option other than to leave** and search for a better life elsewhere. Media reports, for example, showing people leaving from Africa and risking their lives crossing the Mediterranean to destinations such as Italy and Malta, and via the Canary Islands to Spain, are a graphic illustration of this. Somalis that make the dangerous journey across the Gulf of Aden in smugglers' boats to Yemen is another. In the future, as the recent Stern Review on *The Economics of Climate Change*<sup>11</sup> pointed out, changes in the climate may contribute to changes in migration patterns. DFID's programmes focus on reducing poverty in developing countries. They support partner countries' commitment to promote good governance, fight corruption and uphold human rights. They provide social assistance, humanitarian assistance, health and education services, skills training and livelihood opportunities which can mean that vulnerable people have the opportunity to remain in the country in which they are living rather than feel 'forced' to leave.

<sup>10</sup> IOM (2003). *World Migration 2003. Managing Migration: Challenges and Responses for People on the Move*.

<sup>11</sup> *The Economics of Climate Change*. January 2007 by Sir Nicholas Stern, Advisor to the UK Government on the economics of climate change and development.

**The majority of migrants forced to move because of conflict remain internally displaced.** By 2006, global populations of internally displaced people (IDPs) were estimated at 24 million in at least 50 countries.<sup>12</sup> Over half – 13 million – were in Africa. Some people who leave their homes to escape violence move initially to a country of asylum within their region, mostly across the nearest border. They may subsequently move from this first location to seek better protection as well as opportunities to rebuild their lives. This secondary movement often involves a mix of reasons for moving and can make it difficult to clearly distinguish between asylum seekers and economic migrants. DFID provides about £40 million a year to a range of organisations including the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) to give support to refugees and IDPs.<sup>13</sup>

**People smuggling and human trafficking are a growing part of the migration picture.** However, it is difficult to establish the numbers of people who are smuggled or trafficked. It is understood that the prevalence of trafficking is far less than that of smuggling. The ILO report on the Global Alliance Against Forced Labour (2005) gives an estimated minimum number of persons in forced labour at a given time as a result of trafficking as 2.45 million.

People smuggling involves migrants who often actively seek the help of a smuggler who will help them to illegally enter a country for a fee. People who are trafficked do not give their consent or are deceived by their facilitators. The intention of those who do the trafficking is to exploit the men, women and children when they reach their destination. The **majority of trafficked people are women and girls** and the trafficking of people occurs both within and between countries. Trafficked victims can be sexually exploited but can also be forced to work off a bond or pay off a debt through other illegal forms of labour – male forced agricultural labour is often an example of this. If the trafficking of people is to be prevented, its root causes – such as poverty, discrimination against women and girls and inequality – need to be addressed.<sup>14</sup> DFID, working with other government departments and partners in Asia and West Africa, has provided funds totalling more than £14 million to support a range of anti-trafficking initiatives.

<sup>12</sup> Norwegian Refugee Council/IDMC (2006). *Internal Displacement, Global Overview of Trends and Developments 2005*.

<sup>13</sup> DFID's work on refugees and Internally Displaced Persons is led by the Conflict, Humanitarian and Security Department (CHaSe). DFID(2004). *Statistics in International Development*.

<sup>14</sup> Anti-Slavery International website – [www.antislavery.org](http://www.antislavery.org)

While smuggling and trafficking are clearly different in legal terms,<sup>15</sup> in practice there are grey areas. They can become difficult to distinguish when migrants find themselves in exploitative and abusive situations in their new location. Where people are smuggled or trafficked internationally, their irregular status makes them vulnerable to exploitation in the destination country. Governments of developed and developing countries should ensure that migration policy acknowledges and aims to combat these irregular movements.

### Globalisation shapes migration

**People have always moved but the current phase of globalisation – the growing economic and social interdependence of countries worldwide – is creating new and powerful drivers for people to move.** People are now, as never before, aware of opportunities elsewhere and the falling cost of travel makes it easier to get there. Globalisation has stimulated international trade and competition and put a premium on mobile, especially skilled populations. This in turn stimulates the flow and exchange of new ideas and financial resources across borders, raising and sharing prosperity.

**Industrialised and middle-income economies need labour and some developing countries have an abundance of labour.** Men and women from developing countries are increasingly helping to meet the demand for skilled and semi-skilled or low-skilled labour in more developed economies. Many migrants, regardless of their skill level, will take the lower-skilled and lower-paid jobs that nationals are reluctant to do. By 2010, the economically active population in the developing world is projected to increase by 733 million.<sup>16</sup> In contrast, the economically active population in developed regions is expected to increase by only 50 million. This suggests that where there is an economic need for migrant labour in developed and faster-growing economies, well planned migration could be a solution that benefits sending countries and countries of destination.

**Globalisation is also shaping migration within individual countries.** As companies search the globe for the cheapest, most efficient workers to manufacture their products, new areas of economic growth and opportunities arise. Economic activities are greatest and most likely to produce long-term growth in certain locations such as towns, cities, ports and areas of high agricultural potential. Internal labour migration is often a response to the growth and employment opportunities in these areas.

<sup>15</sup> The distinction is set out in more detail in the UN Convention Against Transnational Organised Crime and in its separate Protocols on People Smuggling and Human Trafficking.

<sup>16</sup> Stanton Russell, S. *International Migration: Implications for the World Bank*. HCO Working Papers. HROWP54. World Bank.

The issues discussed above help to show the complexities surrounding migration. They also indicate how difficult it is to predict long term global trends as the relative wealth, security and working populations of different countries continue to vary. However, it is generally agreed<sup>17</sup> that the demographics and economic drivers are such that the trends we perceive today will continue for the next ten to twenty years.

<sup>17</sup> *Long-term global demographic trends: reshaping the geopolitical landscape*. Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) 2001

## 2 Migration, poverty reduction and development links

**Despite the limited availability of data for developing countries we know that poor people often choose to migrate as a way of improving their lives.** The differences in demand for labour, and economic inequality between local areas, countries and regions mean that poor men and women often move elsewhere to take advantage of job opportunities and better wages. The inclusion of poor men and women in global and internal labour markets can make a significant contribution to reducing poverty. For many poor families in the poorest countries, the migration of one or more members is an important way of earning a living. For example, one recent study found 50–80% of rural African households had at least one migrant member<sup>18</sup> working in another part of the country in which they lived.

**The link between migration and poverty is complex and dependent on the specific circumstances in which migration takes place.** Migration can both cause and be caused by poverty. Poverty can be alleviated as well as exacerbated by migration. In Kerala, India, for example, migration to the Gulf States has caused wages to rise, reduced unemployment, and improved the economic situation of those left behind.<sup>19</sup> In other situations, migration does not lead to economic or social improvement. Research on the impact of labour migration in tribal Western India found that for poorer migrants ‘many years of migration have not led to any long-term increase in assets or any reduction in poverty’. However the study also noted that migration offered poor migrants ‘a short-term means to service debt and avoid the more extreme forms of dependency and bondage’.<sup>20</sup>

Similarly, **migration can increase or decrease inequality** but on balance migration does not lead to higher inequality.<sup>21</sup> It is often the better-off members of a community who first migrate as they have the resources to support migration. This first phase of migration, including remittances, can reinforce existing inequalities – but over time, with the spread of information beyond the original migrants’ families and the build-up of social networks, lower-income individuals get the opportunity to migrate. As migration becomes widespread, the receipt of remittances, skills gained, and opening up of new opportunities begins to benefit poorer households. In Burkina Faso, for example, wealthier households are able to migrate to Europe and while this can lead to increased inequality, migration by middle-income households to Cote d’Ivoire may be more successful, depending on the social networks migrants have and the amount of remittances sent back.<sup>22</sup>

<sup>18</sup> Sussex Centre for Migration (2004). *Migration and pro-poor policies in Africa: A report co-ordinated by Richard Black, Final Report 2004.*

<sup>19</sup> Zachariah, Kannan and Rajan (2002). *Kerala’s Gulf Connection.* Centre of Development Studies on International Migration, Kerala State, India. CDS Thiruvananthapuram.

<sup>20</sup> Mosse, D., Gupta, S., Mehta, M., Shah, V., Rees, J and the KRIBP Project Team (2002). *Brokered Livelihoods: Debt Labour Migration and Development in Tribal Western India.*

<sup>21</sup> World Bank (2006). *Equity and Development.* World Development Report.

<sup>22</sup> Black, R., Natali, C. and Skinner, J. (2005). *Migration and inequality.* University of Sussex.

**Migration can benefit poor people and developing countries.** For individuals and their families, migration can increase income, lead to new skills, improve social status, build assets and improve quality of life. For communities and developing countries, emigration can relieve labour market and political pressures, result in increased trade and direct investment from abroad, lead to positive diaspora activity such as remittances, promote social and political change and lead to the eventual return by successful migrants who invest in their country of origin.

### Box 1: The link between migration and poverty reduction

Sushila Rai, a Nepalese migrant domestic worker, says of her migration experience: *'While working in Hong Kong I experienced many things – the way people treat a dependent or independent woman. I have gained much experience and my confidence has grown. Now, I have a say in decision-making at home. My husband does not shout at me. I have bought a piece of land and four rickshaws and I am creating a means of livelihood for four other families...'*<sup>23</sup>

## Migration and the Millennium Development Goals

Given these differing outcomes, planning for poverty reduction and growth that benefits poor people needs to take account of migration including the **potential to support or undermine the achievement of the MDGs**. The impact migration can have on the MDGs and vice versa, often depends on policies being in place that aim to maximise the benefits and minimise the risks. The main impacts include:

- **poverty reduction** – through remittances and other migrant activities, the incomes of individual migrants and their families rise. Remittances invested in rural and urban communities can support the economy and create jobs;
- **gender equality** – greater equality between men and women can occur when women migrate and achieve more independence. Women who become the recipients of remittances from their migrant spouses can gain greater control over household budgets and purchases and exercise control over property.<sup>24</sup> On the other hand, vulnerability to human trafficking and failure to become part of society in their new location can make women more dependent on male relatives and less able to be independent or have a say in how things are done;<sup>25</sup>

<sup>23</sup> Jolly, S. with Reeves, H. (2005). *Gender and Migration – Overview Report*. BRIDGE, Institute for Development Studies, University of Sussex.

<sup>24</sup> ILO (2002) Judith Van Doorn *Migration, Remittances and Development*.

<sup>25</sup> IOM (2005). *The Millennium Development Goals and Migration: Workshop Discussion Paper*.

## Moving out of poverty – making migration work better for poor people

- **health** – women and men face health risks during and after migration, both through contracting disease and experiencing problems in accessing health services. For some countries, the loss of health professionals through migration can undermine effective healthcare provision,<sup>26</sup> but increased incomes sent back home as remittances and transfers of knowledge can also lead to better health outcomes.<sup>27</sup> Improved child health and lower infant mortality rates in Guatemala, Mexico and Morocco are directly related to the health education that women migrants receive in their host country;<sup>28</sup>
- **education** – child migrants and children of migrants (whether they move or stay behind) often find that they are unable to attend school. Few provisions are made for educating children who do not stay in one place throughout the year or who move permanently from their home. However, children may also migrate in order to get access to education and receipt of remittances can allow children to attend school; and
- **improvement in lives of slum dwellers**<sup>29</sup> – many slum dwellers are recent migrants, or the children and grandchildren of previous migrants. The contribution of migrants and longer-term slum dwellers to the local and national economy is often not recognised, and their rights as citizens frequently denied.

Given the diverse effects, causes and impacts of migration on poverty reduction and development, it is essential that the research and analysis to underpin policy development in this area is strengthened. DFID is currently providing funding of £2.5 million over five years to the Development Research Centre on Migration, Globalisation and Poverty. The centre is undertaking a programme of research, capacity building, training and promotion of dialogue to provide the evidence for policy approaches that help maximise the potential benefits of migration for poor people, whilst minimising its risks and costs.

**DFID will work with partner governments, donors and civil society organisations including trade unions, to encourage the inclusion of migration in country-led plans that address poverty reduction and development.**

The ways in which migration supports poverty reduction and development include the links migrants retain with their families, communities and society in their areas of origin. These links include the transfer of economic and social remittances and diaspora activities.

<sup>26</sup> IOM (2005). *The Millennium Development Goals and Migration: Workshop Discussion Paper*.

<sup>27</sup> Hildebrandt, N. (2004). *The Effects of Migration on Child Health in Mexico*. Stanford University.

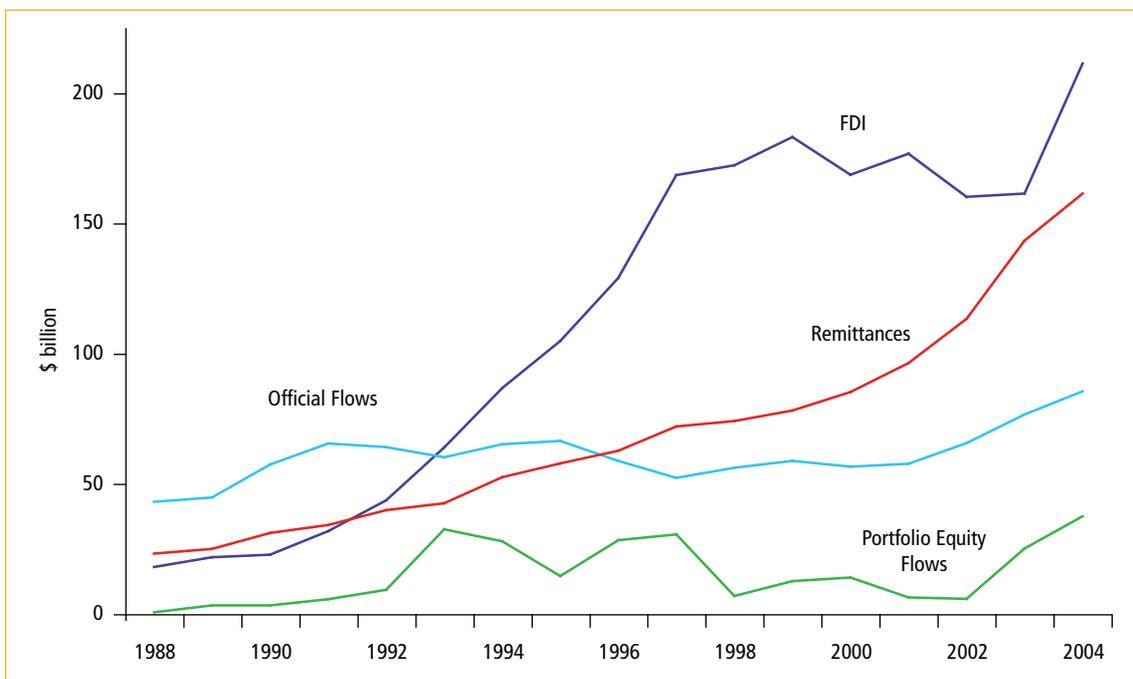
<sup>28</sup> ILO 2002, Van Doorn *Migration, Remittances and Development*.

<sup>29</sup> MDG Target 11 'By 2020 to have achieved a significant improvement in the lives of at least 100 million slum dwellers'.

## Migrant remittances can reduce poverty

**Migrants send money ‘home’ – remittances.** The volume and value of remittances are second only to foreign direct investment (FDI) in developing countries. In some countries remittances can be higher than official development assistance (ODA). In Bangladesh, workers’ remittances in 2005 were estimated at US\$2.2 billion,<sup>30</sup> almost double the US\$1.4 billion international aid (net ODA)<sup>31</sup> in the same year. In Kenya, though relatively low compared with some African countries, workers’ remittances were estimated to be US\$464 million in 2004,<sup>32</sup> just below the level of international aid (US\$635 million<sup>33</sup>) in the same year.

Graph 2: Resource flows to developing countries in billions of dollars<sup>34</sup>



<sup>30</sup> Economists Intelligence Unit (2006) Bangladesh Country Profile.

<sup>31</sup> OECD(2006). Aid Charts. <http://>

<sup>32</sup> World Bank( 2006). *Global Economic Prospects EP 2006*, table 4A. 1.1.

<sup>33</sup> OECD (2006). Aid Charts. <http://>

<sup>34</sup> Ratha, D. (2005). *Understanding the Importance of Remittances*. World Bank.

## Moving out of poverty – making migration work better for poor people

In 2005 international remittances to developing countries through formal channels were estimated to total US\$167 billion.<sup>35</sup> The World Bank estimates that in 2006 the figure will exceed US\$200 billion. In addition, there are large transfers of money through informal channels – sent in letters or carried by someone travelling home. Flows of remittances are relatively predictable, stable and rising. This is likely to continue despite the fact that remittances tend to decline between first and second generation migrants as they become integrated into their new homes. Unlike other types of foreign income, remittances can rise to meet the needs of ordinary people during times of crisis. For example, remittances to Afghanistan, Somalia, Central America and the Balkans have helped people and communities get their lives back together following conflict and natural disasters. More recently, banks and money-transfer companies in the UK noticed a sharp increase in remittances as many people sent money to help their families and communities following the tsunami that affected 14 countries in December 2004 and the earthquake in Pakistan in October 2005. There have been a few cases where remittances do not increase in times of crisis. A recent study found this to be the case in Jordan and Morocco<sup>36</sup>. The most likely explanation was that migrant workers chose to keep more of their savings in their host country during periods of economic trouble in the home country, because there is reduced confidence in their country's financial systems.

**Table 1: Developing countries with highest remittance flows, 2001 and 2003 (in \$ billions)<sup>37</sup>**

	2001	2003	Change
India	11.1	17.4	6.3
Mexico	9.9	14.6	4.7
China	1.2	4.6	3.4
Pakistan	1.5	4.0	2.5
Philippines	6.2	7.9	1.7
Poland	1.1	2.3	1.2
Bangladesh	2.1	3.2	1.1
Brazil	1.8	2.8	1.0
Colombia	2.1	3.1	1.0
Vietnam	2.0	2.7	0.7
<b>All developing countries</b>	<b>84.6</b>	<b>116.0</b>	<b>31.4</b>

<sup>35</sup> World Bank (2006). *Global Economic Prospects*. More recent figures from the World Bank suggest that the level of recorded remittances in 2005 was US\$193 billion.

<sup>36</sup> Savan, S. (2006) *Business Cycles and Workers' Remittances: How Do Migrant Workers Respond to Cyclical Movements of GDP at Home?* IMF WP/06/52

<sup>37</sup> World Bank (2005). *Global Development Finance 2005: Mobilizing Finance and Managing Vulnerability*.

**Research suggests that remittances from one country to another and those sent within countries help to reduce poverty.** Remittances can help families to meet their basic needs – buy food, see a doctor or make repairs to their home. In some cases the money received from relatives who have migrated can be enough to provide savings or investment opportunities in small-scale enterprise, to buy land or open a bank account.

The value of remittances sent by migrants working away from home but still in their home countries is lower than that of international remittances, but the difference they can make to families should not be underestimated. These **internal remittances** are sent more often and can account for a considerable proportion (up to 30%)<sup>38</sup> of the household incomes of poorer families. Cheap, safe banking and investment services can encourage rural migrants to invest in their home community and support rural development through the purchase of land, equipment and labour.

#### **Box 2: Internal remittances in China<sup>39</sup>**

Recent research by China's agriculture ministry shows internal migration is better able to boost economies in the poorer rural sector and remittances from the country's fast-growing urban labourers are likely to surpass agriculture as the biggest generators of income in the rural areas they left. The research found that an estimated 98 million rural residents who worked away from their villages sent or carried home US\$45 billion in 2003, an increase of 8.5% over the previous year.

**Remittances can help to improve economic growth.** When remittances are saved or used to make investments they help to stimulate economic growth. Even when remittances are used to buy food or health and education services, they stimulate demand for other goods and services. This is particularly important in countries with high unemployment. Remittances are also a source of foreign exchange for some of the poorest countries and in some small economies represent a large share of gross domestic product (GDP) and of export earnings.

**The sending of money by migrants to their families and communities is made difficult and costly by weak financial infrastructure, poor payments systems, a lack of accessible financial institutions, weak accountability and a weak regulatory environment.** This means migrants frequently turn to informal channels to transfer money. Informal transfer systems are not necessarily 'bad' and, from

<sup>38</sup> Deshingkar, P. and Grimm, S. (2004). *Voluntary Internal Migration: An Update*. Overseas Development Institute.

<sup>39</sup> IOM (2005). *World Migration 2005. Costs and Benefits of International Migration*.

the point of view of migrants, they can offer an inexpensive and reliable way to send money home when there are no banking or financial services available. However, transparent and accountable ways of transferring money are important to prevent financial crimes and money laundering or the diversion of funds to finance other illegal activities such as terrorism. Preventing these illegal activities is best achieved through regulated formal systems. The challenge is to create a set of rules that are flexible and inclusive enough to cover both informal and formal sector approaches.

**To make the most of remittances there is a need to improve the infrastructure for sending and receiving money.** This will mean having:

- good economic policies at national level;
- political stability and improvements in the investment climate in origin countries; and
- improvements in migrants' access to the formal financial sector – or 'banking the unbanked'.

Supporting migrants to use the formal financial sector might include lowering the cost of money transfers, providing them with information about the services available and helping to overcome their concerns about using formal institutions such as the need for identification. It will also be important to take account of the different ways in which men and women remit. Men remit relatively large amounts of funds while women generally send back small amounts (although a larger share of their income) and do so more frequently than male migrants. Women are also the largest receivers of remittances.<sup>40</sup>

**In response to the growing value of remittances, some governments have started to encourage these flows.** They are putting in place new legislation and regulations to make it easier to send money home. But it is important that governments do not damage what is essentially a private transaction between individuals and that there is recognition of the impacts for migrants who send money home. Remittances involve a trade off between the needs of the migrant and those of the families to whom they send money. Any attempts to increase the volume and poverty reduction impact of remittances should not place additional burden on migrants who may also be in a vulnerable situation.<sup>41</sup>

<sup>40</sup> Jolly, S. with Reeves, H. (2005). *Gender and Migration: Overview Report*, Susie. BRIDGE, Institute of Development Studies, University of Sussex.

<sup>41</sup> Nyberg Sorensen, N. (2004). *The Development Dimension of Migrant Remittances*. Working Paper Series, Migration Policy Research, IOM.

**DFID has taken an important role within the international community to support the positive impact of remittances on poverty reduction.** Work has been undertaken in partnership with DFID country offices and the UK Treasury. Priorities include:

- improving access, transparency and choice of remittance service provider;
- lowering costs;
- linking to other financial services (such as savings accounts); and
- increasing the positive impact remittances have on development.

One of the main areas of work is developing remittance ‘partnerships’ with the governments of Bangladesh, Ghana and Nigeria – countries that receive large volumes of remittance transfers from the UK. These partnerships will include a range of measures to remove obstacles to transfers, improve access for poor people to remittances and other financial services and strengthen the ability of the financial sector to provide efficient and widespread transfer payment services. Other areas of work include support to set up the Inter-Agency Remittances Task Force,<sup>42</sup> work with the private sector on reducing costs and improving access, and research to improve the quality of remittance data.

### **Box 3: Sending money home**

Although there are many ways of getting money back to family and friends at home, it is often difficult to work out who can offer the best deal. DFID commissioned a survey of remittance costs, speed, ease of use and identity requirements. The survey focused on remittances from the UK to Bangladesh, China, Ghana, India, Kenya and Nigeria but the information is also useful to anyone who sends money to another country. These useful facts and figures are available at [www.sendmoneyhome.org](http://www.sendmoneyhome.org). This information helps people make an informed decision about the cheapest and most effective way to send their remittances. Since the ‘Send money home’ website was established in March 2005 it has received over 186,100 hits. In addition, almost half a million country-specific leaflets have been distributed among the six communities initially covered by the website. The initiative has contributed to price decreases of 30% to the countries that were originally profiled when it started in March 2005.

**DFID will continue to support the efforts of developing countries and international agencies to increase the poverty-reduction and development benefits of remittances.**

<sup>42</sup> The Inter-Agency Remittances Task Force emerged from the DFID/World Bank/International Migration Policy Programme remittances conference in October 2003. DFID has worked with the World Bank to help the Task Force develop and take forward its agenda on data collection and coordination and the development of core principles.

### Migration influences social and political development

**Large numbers of people regularly leaving, arriving, and sometimes returning to a community can bring about enormous social and political changes.** The concept of **social remittances** – the transfer of ideas, ways of doing things and a sense of belonging between migrants and their home communities – is useful in understanding such changes. Migration increases the speed and likelihood of transfer of new skills, ideas, attitudes and technologies through people. The relationships migrants and their communities continue to have influences and can often challenge the way people have traditionally lived. For example, men and women migrants learn and experience the cultural attitudes, political ideas and behaviour of their new environments. These may be quite different from those they left behind. As a result, the relationships with their original family and communities, which help to shape many aspects of their lives, may change considerably.

#### Box 4: Social remittances – the changing role of men and women

'Many young women in the Dominican village of Miraflores from which, during the 1990s, more than 65% of the households sent migrants to Boston, completely changed their ideas about the kind of men they wanted to marry. They learned that since both men and women have to go out to work in Boston, the man helps out much more with the children and the housework when he comes home at night. They saw that when married couples came back to visit, they seemed to make decisions together and the husband seemed to treat his wife with more respect. In response to these social remittances, they demanded a different kind of partnership. They did not want to marry a man who had never migrated and who continued to treat women in the "old way". They wanted to be with someone who would treat them as equals.'<sup>43</sup>

The **'feminisation' of migration** – more women moving independently – has come about in response to a growing demand for female labour. At the same time there has been an increasing acceptance of women's economic independence and desire or need to travel. During the late 1970s Sri Lanka was among the first countries in Asia to allow women to migrate to work in the Middle East and the only country to do so without any restriction. Women now account for nearly 65% of Sri Lanka's recorded migrant population.<sup>44</sup> More recently the Bangladesh government made changes to policy on female labour migration. Although still requiring the permission of male relatives,

<sup>43</sup> Levitt, P. *Social Remittances – Culture as a development tool*. Wellesley College and Harvard University.

<sup>44</sup> Jolly, S. with Reeves, H. (2005). *Gender & Migration*. BRIDGE, Institute of Development Studies, University of Sussex.

unskilled and semi-skilled women over 35 are now allowed to migrate.<sup>45</sup> The experience for women who migrate or stay at home can be both positive and negative depending on the particular circumstances. When women migrate they can improve their position in their families and communities and have the opportunity to be independent and make decisions in a way they were previously unable to do. However, they may also become open to abuse and risks of trafficking. Similarly, when women stay at home they may establish female-headed households, again giving them more power to make decisions. In Kerala, India, women who received remittances from their husbands in the Gulf States said that the remittances ‘raised their authority and status: 70% had opened their own bank accounts, 40% had their own income, and 50% held land or homes in their own names’.<sup>46</sup> At the same time they may have less financial or physical support and have less protection due to the absence of the male head of family.

The high rates of adult migration in various forms mean that **many children are affected by all kinds of migration**. As with adults, the impact of migration on children can vary widely. Some research suggests that children who live in homes where adults have migrated have improved health and education. This seems to be a result of both increased income through remittances and better knowledge exchanged through migration networks.<sup>47</sup> However, evidence of the social and emotional impacts on children who have one or both parents working away from home indicates negative outcomes such as higher levels of psychological disorders and lower levels of school performance. Children who migrate with their families will often face the same types of discrimination as adult migrants including lack of access to health and education services. **Children also leave their home communities independently of their families**.<sup>48</sup> Most children who migrate independently do so for many reasons including to earn an income for school fees, for better clothes, to get training or education or to live with their extended family. Very few leave because of difficult family circumstances and many maintain contact with their parents or families and send remittances.<sup>49</sup> However, there can be risks. Many unaccompanied children are sent abroad by their families in the hope of a better life. There is concern that for many their travel abroad has been facilitated by non-family members, who then abandon them in the country of destination making them vulnerable to exploitation in an unfamiliar society.

<sup>45</sup> Siddiqui, T (2004). *Migration and Millennium Development Goals: DFID-RMMRU Partnership*. Refugee and Migratory Movements Research Unit. University of Dhaka.

<sup>46</sup> Van Doorn (2003) ILO *Remittances, Migration and Development*.

<sup>47</sup> Ozden, C. and Schiff, M. (eds.) (2005). *International Migration, Remittances & Brain Drain*. World Bank.

<sup>48</sup> Whitehead, A. and Hashim, I (2005). *Children and Migration*: Background Paper for DFID Migration Team.

<sup>49</sup> Whitehead, A. (2005). *Independent Child Migration: Reconciling Children’s Experiences with Policy*.

**Men, women and children who migrate and are discriminated against may find themselves socially excluded.** This can happen because of who they are and where they live.<sup>50</sup> Migrants often end up living in the poorer areas of cities or villages and may have limited knowledge of the language or dialect of their place of destination. This can have a negative impact on gender equality and women's rights. As a result they have limited access to local decision-making processes, formal employment, social security and other services. This can exacerbate feelings of insecurity in the host and immigrant communities, reinforcing or creating inequalities between groups and causing social and political tensions.

**People who do not migrate continue to be linked to those who do through different types of social, political and economic relationships.** As the number of people dependent on migration grows, networks that cover different locations have become more important as they often allow people to broaden their social and economic opportunities. Therefore the ability to develop and use new networks can become more important than the social relations people have within their home area.

**The types of connections maintained between international migrants and different people, communities and places are increasingly being referred to as trans-national networks.** As transport and electronic communications have grown and improved, migrants have found it possible to have a number of homes and different ways of living depending on where they are. An important feature of trans-national communities is that they maintain economic, political and social networks that cover several countries.

Migrants who belong to trans-national networks are often brought together based on one or more factors including a common country of origin, a common ethnicity, a common religion, a collective memory of 'home', or a wish to return to their 'homeland'. 'Family' and 'community' have therefore become global rather than restricted to a particular country.

These international links have an important part to play in shaping current migration in both the country of origin and the destination country. They help to decide who migrates, how they move, where they go and what they do when they get to their destination.

<sup>50</sup> DFID (2005). *Reducing poverty by tackling social exclusion*.

**Box 5: Trans-national Afghan network<sup>51</sup>**

Afghan social networks in Iran function as sources of solidarity, credit, information on culture and practice, contacts with the labour markets, and providers of initial accommodation as well as social and emotional support. These networks are based on family connections, ethnic identity or acquaintances from the area of origin. Smugglers sometimes play an integral part in these networks, ensuring that money and news are brought to and from the migrant's home in Afghanistan, although the latter function is becoming less important with the use of mobile and satellite phones.

**DFID will work with government partners and civil society networks including the international labour movement, to better understand the social and political changes that arise from migration and how they may support development, including trans-national networks.**

**Diasporas contribute to poverty reduction and development**

When people migrate across international borders they (and their families) tend to form communities in their destination areas that can continue to have strong personal and material links with their countries of origin. Referred to as diasporas, these communities have historically been viewed as negative or irrelevant to formal international development efforts. The main concern is the support provided by some diaspora to groups involved in violent conflict in their countries of origin. However, the positive economic, social and political connections that diasporas maintain with their countries of origin have the potential to be an engine for development.

**Many diaspora groups and individuals are playing significant roles in their countries of origin.** Their involvement is extremely varied. It ranges from disaster relief to business development, from exporting machinery to importing ideas, from instigating war to searching out paths to peace. In addition to private remittances, diasporas are active in a range of practices between nations – Foreign Direct Investment (FDI), market development (including outsourcing of production), technology transfer, charitable activities, tourism and political contributions. For example, FDI has been a major factor in the emergence of China as a manufacturing and trading powerhouse in the 1990s. It is estimated that about half the £26 billion in FDI that flowed into China in 2002 originated with the Chinese diasporas. Ethnic Chinese also have an important

<sup>51</sup> Stigter, E. and Monsutti, A. (2005). *Transnational Networks: Recognising a Regional Reality*. Afghan Research and Evaluation Unit.

## Moving out of poverty – making migration work better for poor people

impact on the volume of bilateral trade between China and their countries of settlement. However, ‘the poorest countries are not necessarily in a position to take advantage of many kinds of business investment, but millions of poor people in countries that are more technologically sophisticated might benefit from the effects of diaspora investment’.<sup>52</sup>

### Box 6: Diaspora charitable activity<sup>53</sup>

The Sierra Leone War Trust for Children (SLWT) is a UK-based non-profit organisation founded by members of the Sierra Leonean diaspora in the UK. The SLWT’s goal is to improve the welfare of war-affected children. One of its first major projects, called the Thuan Mathinki Community Rehabilitation Project, is funded by grants and donations. The project will rehabilitate six villages that were completely destroyed during the war by providing primary education, assisting food security, helping economic self-sufficiency through agriculture, and addressing trauma through psycho-social welfare programmes. The SLWT liaises with the Sierra Leonean government and has worked with UNICEF, but the primary focus remains on working with the communities to determine needs, projects and plans.

**Many governments now recognise that their diasporas can support national development from abroad.** As a result they have begun to give ‘their’ migrants special rights, protections and recognitions. For example, in 1998 the Indian government launched a huge sale of five-year bonds guaranteed by the State Bank of India and available only to non-resident Indians (NRIs). There were significant benefits to make the bonds attractive including the option of redemption in US dollars or German marks and exemption from Indian income and wealth taxes.<sup>54</sup> Similarly, the Philippine government has created incentives including tax breaks and privileged investment options for Filipinos abroad. Governments’ involvement with their diasporas takes different forms and has differing priorities. The most immediate positive effects on poverty are likely to come from plans that aim to maximise the income that comes from remittances and goes directly to households.

<sup>52</sup> Newland, K. & Patrick, E. (2004). *Beyond Remittances: The Role of Diaspora in Poverty Reduction in their Countries of Origin. A Scoping Study.* Migration Policy Institute.

<sup>53</sup> Newland, K. & Patrick, E. (2004). *Beyond Remittances: The Role of Diaspora in Poverty Reduction in their Countries of Origin. A Scoping Study.* Migration Policy Institute.

<sup>54</sup> Newland, K. & Patrick, E. (2004). *Beyond Remittances: The Role of Diaspora in Poverty Reduction in their Countries of Origin. A Scoping Study.* Migration Policy Institute.

**Box 7: India's diaspora policy<sup>55</sup>**

The Indian government set up a Parliamentary High Level Committee (PHLC) on the Indian diasporas in September 2000. The mandate of the committee was to undertake a comprehensive study of Indian diasporas and to recommend measures for a constructive relationship. Recommendations spanned a range of issues – economic development, tourism, education, health and philanthropy. The Indian government has since undertaken to act upon the recommendations of the PHLC, the most visible actions to date being the availability of dual citizenship and the establishment of Pravasi Bharatiya Divas – an annual official gathering of the Indian diasporas.

**International development organisations are just beginning to realise the contribution diaspora communities can make to reducing poverty and improving development.** However, many national and international donors and NGOs are structured in a formal manner, and may overlook, be reluctant, or find it very difficult to work with the often less formal, traditional self-help organisations that make up a significant percentage of diaspora groups.<sup>56</sup> It is important that real partnerships are developed that accept the limitations and build on the strengths of diasporas. This will take time and recognition on both sides but will bring benefits.

**In 1997 DFID made a commitment to ‘build on the skills and talents of migrants and other ethnic minorities within the UK to promote the development of their countries of origin’.**<sup>57</sup> Since then DFID has taken steps to work more effectively with diasporas. These have included involving diasporas in the development of a number of Country Action Plans, including for Bangladesh, Pakistan and Nigeria; providing funding to Connections for Development,<sup>58</sup> actively consulting with the African diasporas as part of the Commission for Africa process and commissioning research to look at and make recommendations about the way in which DFID can work more effectively with diaspora groups.<sup>59</sup>

**DFID will extend and develop further its work with the range of UK diaspora communities in order to strengthen its partnership in support of activities that promote poverty reduction and development in developing countries.**

<sup>55</sup> Government of India, (2004). Non-Resident Indians and Persons of Indian Origin Division, Ministry of External Affairs.

<sup>56</sup> Newland, K. & Patrick, E.(2004). *Beyond Remittances: The Role of Diaspora in Poverty Reduction in their Countries of Origin. A Scoping Study*. Migration Policy Institute.

<sup>57</sup> DFID(1997). The 1997 White Paper *International Development, Eliminating World Poverty*.

<sup>58</sup> A network of black and minority ethnic voluntary and community organisations, it aims to mobilise civil society for action on development.

<sup>59</sup> Chikezie, C-E. and Thakrar, B. (2005). *Framework for DFID-Diaspora Engagement: A report for DFID*.

Migration can make a positive contribution to poverty reduction and development. However, this can be significantly undermined where governments do not take responsibility for managing migration, and migration policies fail to take account of the factors that offer benefits and lessen risks.

### Migration management

**Well-managed migration regimes can help developing countries make the most of potential benefits arising from migration and reduce some of the risks.** There are a number of sources of advice and guidance available to countries including the International Labour Organisation (ILO) Multilateral Framework on Labour Migration which provides non-binding guidance aimed at helping countries develop their labour migration policies depending on their specific needs and circumstances. Migration is strongly linked to a range of major policy issues such as trade, security, environment, health and development.<sup>60</sup> National and regional decision-makers, with international support where needed, should aim to develop migration policies that are coherent and work to the mutual benefit of migrants, society and governments. This should include managing migration to meet their economic and social needs, promote growth, prevent and deal sensibly with irregular and illegal migration, and accept back nationals that have travelled via irregular routes.

Some of the main poverty reduction and development issues that need to be addressed are:

- **managing migration at national level and planning for internal mobility;**
- **opportunities for legal migration;**
- **supporting the circulation of high-skilled migrants; and**
- **addressing the rights of migrants.**

<sup>60</sup> IOM (2003). *World Migration 2003: Managing Migration, Challenges and Responses for People on the Move*.

## Planning for internal mobility

**Patterns of internal migration are changing. Movement within national borders is by far the most significant form of migration for poor people, both in terms of volume and potential impact on poverty reduction.** Labour migration by men from one rural area to another is still the most common type of movement in many poor countries. However, more women are moving and doing so independently of their families. For example, a study of Addis Ababa's migrant population in 2000 found female migrants outnumbered male migrants, the women were on average younger than their male counterparts and an unusually high proportion of the female migrants were divorced or unmarried. Similarly, in East and South East Asia the majority of female migrants are young and unmarried.<sup>61</sup> Temporary migration has become more frequent. For example, about 20 million people migrate seasonally each year in India while in West Africa people migrate for seasonal employment from the northern regions of countries such as Ghana, Togo, Mali and Burkina Faso to destinations in the south.<sup>62</sup> People are also migrating to increase their income and assets rather than for survival.

**The fact that rural-to-rural migration remains the most common form of movement means rural areas will continue to be an important part of development efforts.** In India rural-rural migration accounted for about 62% of all movements in 1999-2000.<sup>63</sup> Where growth in non-farm activities is occurring, rural areas will need new types of infrastructure, for example, effective waste management. Ensuring that families who stay or move into rural areas have the appropriate facilities and protections, particularly land rights and entitlements for women, will be an important part of ensuring that people can continue to make a living.

**Movement from rural areas to towns and cities is also increasing in some countries.** It is expected that within three decades the urban populations of Africa, Asia and Latin America will double to nearly 4 billion people. While rural populations will also continue to grow, the growth will be slower, reaching 3 billion over the same period of time. By 2020, the majority of Asians will be living in towns and cities. And by 2030, the same will be true of most Africans. The most obvious form of rural-urban migration is long-distance to larger cities, but many migrants, particularly poorer people, move to smaller towns. Higher, or at least more regular, wages and a greater variety of non-farm jobs attract rural migrants to urban areas.

<sup>61</sup> IOM (2005). *Internal Migration and Development: A Global Perspective*. IOM Migration Research Series No. 19.

<sup>62</sup> IOM (2005). *Internal Migration and Development: A Global Perspective*. IOM Migration Research Series No. 19.

<sup>63</sup> IOM (2005). *Internal Migration and Development: A Global Perspective*. IOM Migration Research Series No. 19.

**The benefits of internal migration for poor men and women and for economic growth are not well recognised.** National policies often ignore or restrict internal migration rather than expecting and planning for it. In Africa a range of blockages exists to restrict migration including permits, fees, fines, roadblocks and harassment.<sup>64</sup> In China and Vietnam restrictions on movement remained in place until very recently. In India the focus of development programmes is often to reduce migration. This kind of approach creates problems. Without planning for internal migration, towns and cities are unable to meet the needs of growing populations including the provision of public services such as health and education. In addition problems may arise within the areas from which migrants come as the most vulnerable people, often the elderly, the disabled and children, are left behind. In India DFID has committed over £200 million for programmes in three states to improve urban management and governance.

Lack of adequate housing is also a major problem in growing urban areas. Estimates suggest there are currently 900 million slum dwellers worldwide. If current trends continue, it is estimated that numbers could reach 1.5 billion slum dwellers by 2020<sup>65</sup>. DFID is supporting the UN-Habitat Slum Upgrading Facility which aims to provide affordable housing for low-income households and develop urban infrastructure; and Cities Alliance, a global coalition of cities working to achieve the vision of cities without slums.

**DFID's work on promoting local economic growth emphasises the importance of removing the formal and informal barriers to people moving within their own country.** Poor people's participation in emerging labour markets in places of growth should be made easier – balanced with policies that address the changing needs of those left behind in regions of low growth. This includes helping migrants to settle into their new locations by providing them with social protection and efforts to minimise social tension. Some ideas from work conducted in DFID India's Livelihood Support Programme include the development of migrant resource centres, savings and remittance services, and insurance and communication facilities for migrants.

**DFID will work to support partner governments' initiatives to develop managed migration policies that aim to reduce the risks and enhance the benefits of internal migration for poor people.**

<sup>64</sup> IOM (2005). *Internal Migration and Development: A Global Perspective*. IOM Migration Research Series No. 19.

<sup>65</sup> UN HABITAT

## Opportunities for legal migration

**The opportunity to travel through legal channels can significantly increase the benefits of migrating.** Conversely, the risks of migration are greatly increased when people move on an irregular basis – through channels that are neither recognised nor legal. Many governments are now trying to ensure that the legal options on offer to people wishing to migrate fit national labour market needs. This largely means an emphasis is being placed on attracting highly skilled and semi-skilled people. For example, Australia, New Zealand, Canada, and the United States have immigration regimes that aim to select migrants with specific skills and levels of education. A similar approach will be introduced in the UK through the Points Based System.

**For developing countries with an abundance of poorly educated people, internal and international migration into low-skilled jobs could bring about huge poverty-reduction and development benefits.** For more than 25 years, the government of the Philippines has supported the international export of temporary labour as an explicit and important part of its economic development. The occupations of migrants have diversified to include professionals, factory workers and domestic workers, while the tradition of migrant Filipino construction workers, sailors and nurses remains strong.<sup>66</sup> Filipino migration has raised incomes for millions of workers and their families and encouraged investment in education and training.

International trade agreements provide an important mechanism for facilitating the flow of skilled professionals between countries on a temporary basis. In the context of **Mode 4 of the General Agreement on Trade in Services (the GATS)**, developing countries have a keen interest in securing wide access for professional and skilled workers across a broad range of services sectors. In addition, the EU has a clear interest in facilitating the wider flow of services through the elimination of discriminatory barriers to the movement of personnel between EU-based companies and their overseas subsidiaries. The UK is also working to ensure that the European Community's **Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA)** negotiations with the African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) regions deliver a result which reflects developing countries' interest in securing greater access into the EU market for ACP service providers.

<sup>66</sup> O'Neil, (2004). *Labour Export as Government Policy: The Case of the Philippines*. Migration Policy Institute

## Moving out of poverty – making migration work better for poor people

**Bilateral agreements** between sending and receiving countries allow for governments to tailor migration to meet the labour market needs of the countries involved. For developing countries this approach may be an important mechanism for balancing their need for legal low-skilled migration and managing the outflow of highly skilled workers.

The **regulation of recruitment agencies** is another area requiring attention. Where governments have not yet regulated the operation of recruitment agencies exploitative practices can arise. Agencies can support the movement of people through legal migration routes and ensure their rights are respected when they operate within the appropriate legal framework.

**DFID will work with others to support increased opportunities for both skilled and low skilled workers, that take into account the labour market needs of receiving countries. And DFID will work to improve conditions for poor migrant women and men, and to improve conditions in their countries or places of origin and destination.**

### Supporting the circulation of high-skilled migrants

**There are increasing concerns about the loss of skilled and professional workers from developing countries as evidence suggests that ‘brain drain’ is now far greater than a few decades ago.** For example, the number of highly skilled emigrants from Africa increased from 1,800 a year, on average, during 1960–1975 to 4,400 during 1975–1984 and 23,000 during 1984–1987.<sup>67</sup> The UK Government’s White Paper on globalisation notes that ‘developed countries are responding to shortages of health personnel by recruiting staff from low and middle-income countries’. There are benefits to individuals – in terms of career opportunities and earnings – and to sending countries in the form of remittances and enhanced skills offered by migrants on their return. However, these outflows can have detrimental effects on the sending country, which loses scarce human capital. The UK introduced a code of practice for international recruitment. It has also developed bilateral government-to-government agreements for active recruitment with a number of countries including India and the Philippines.

**The impact of highly skilled migration, particularly of health and education professionals, varies from country to country.** Some countries, such as the Philippines and India, invest in training health workers for export; and remittance earnings are seen as an important benefit. For other countries – especially small nations and the poorest countries in Africa – the impact on their health systems can be more

<sup>67</sup> Ozden, C. and Schiff, M. (eds.) (2005). *International Migration, Remittances & The Brain Drain*. World Bank.

severe. Jamaica loses roughly 8% of its registered nurses and more than 20% of its specialist nurses annually. Most go to the US or the UK. As a result it has only 11.3 nurses per 10,000 people (compared to US at 93 per 10,000).<sup>68</sup> However, to relate the state of a nation's health to the increasing emigration of medical professionals, or conversely, to their presence, is to take too narrow a view of how health is delivered to a population.<sup>69</sup>

A number of solutions have been proposed to try to reduce the negative effects of the significant loss of health workers. Programmes that help strengthen health systems in developing countries are likely to have the most positive impact. This might include increased investment in training, incentives such as hardship allowances or transport for key workers working in isolated areas, and developing networks that tap the experience of migrant professionals working abroad. DFID is supporting efforts by developing countries to address these problems, including providing funding of £100 million over six years to support the Emergency Human Resources Programme in Malawi.

#### **Box 8: Malawi Emergency Human Resources Programme**

Malawi has been unable for some time to afford to train and employ enough health-sector staff to meet its needs. As well as the effects of HIV/AIDS, much of the investment in training is being lost as increasing numbers of professional and technical staff choose to move out of the public health service. More than 1,200 qualified nurses living in Malawi have chosen not to work in the health sector and international migration of nursing staff has also increased considerably. Since 2000, more than 100 nurses each year have sought validation of their certificates in order to work abroad. Others are emigrating without validation, retiring early, moving to the private sector or switching to other vocations.

In response, the government of Malawi has produced the Emergency Human Resource Programme. It aims to i) improve incentives for recruitment and retention of Malawian staff through salary increases for ten selected professional and technical groups; ii) recruit physicians from other countries for short-term positions; and iii) expand significantly domestic training capacity.

The programme recognises the need to address a range of non-financial factors affecting retention including postings and promotions policies, performance management, re-grading, training, gender issues and quality of housing. Considerable emphasis is placed on strengthening human resources planning and management capacity in the Ministry of Health and at local level.

<sup>68</sup> Wyss B (2004). *Global Poaching: Jamaica's Brain Drain Econ-Atrocity Bulletin*, 30 January <http://www.fguide.org/Bulletin/BrainDrain.htm>

<sup>69</sup> Skeldon, R (2005). *Globalisation, Skilled Migration and Poverty Alleviation: Brain Drain in Context*

**DFID will support long-term investments to rebuild and strengthen systems that deliver health services, including actions that help to reduce the permanent loss of health professionals.**

### Addressing the rights of migrants

**An important feature of migration is the difficulty migrants may experience in exercising their rights.** They are often unaware of their rights, or unable to exercise the full range of rights to which they are entitled. When migrants' rights are denied this can seriously undermine the potential benefits of movement for individual migrants and their communities of origin. Without protection, migrants can find themselves facing harassment, violence, debt and increased poverty. The most vulnerable people are those who migrate through irregular channels and who feel unable to approach the authorities to report abuses, or assert their rights because of their status.

**There are certain fundamental human rights to which all migrants are entitled everywhere, regardless of their legal status.** These include freedom from slavery and from torture. In general, migrants enjoy the human rights that are set out in the international human rights treaties to which the relevant state is a party,<sup>70</sup> by virtue of being within the jurisdiction of that state.

For example, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, which has 152 state parties, includes a wide range of rights, such as freedom from forced labour and from inhuman or degrading treatment. Most of the rights in this covenant apply to regular and irregular migrants alike. However, certain rights – such as the right to vote – are limited to citizens.

The 151 states that are party to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights are also committed to 'progressively realising', or working towards, these rights within their available resources. Migrants are generally entitled to these rights, such as access to primary education for children or emergency healthcare, on a non-discriminatory basis. However, there is an exception in that developing countries can exclude non-nationals from access to economic rights, such as the right to work.

<sup>70</sup> These include, for example, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights; the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights; a range of 'thematic' human rights treaties dealing with discrimination against women, racial discrimination, child rights, and torture; and the International Labour Organisation's (ILO) labour standards.

The full range of rights to which migrants are entitled will vary depending on the legal framework within each country. In addition to human rights set out in international law and relevant treaties, migrants may be entitled to specific rights set out in national constitutions and laws. Workers who migrate through legal channels are able to acquire or build up entitlement to additional rights e.g. to contributory or insurance based pensions or other social security benefits, to which irregular migrants might have no access.

Some international instruments look specifically at the rights of migrants across international borders, such as the International Labour Organisation's (ILO) conventions 97 (Migration for Employment) and 143 (Migrant Workers), and the UN Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Their Families.

An important tool in protecting the rights of migrant workers is the ILO's 1998 Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work. The Declaration sets out the ILO core labour standards which cover freedom of association and the right to collective bargaining, the elimination of forced labour and child labour, and the ending of discrimination in employment. Member states, even if they have not ratified the related ILO conventions, have an obligation to respect, to promote and to realise these principles. Civil society, including trade unions, has a key role in supporting migrant workers to understand and claim their rights.

### **Box 9: Labour promotion and protection in the Philippines**

As one of the largest labour exporters in the world, the Philippines has one of the most comprehensive sets of government interventions around migration. Among its other activities, the Philippines Overseas Employment Agency (POEA) regulates the licensing and monitoring of recruitment agencies. The Overseas Workers Welfare Administration (OWWA) covers welfare and protection issues, while the Philippines Overseas Labour Office (POLO) maintains 45 labour attachés in 32 countries of destination to provide counselling, legal assistance, conciliation and liaison services.

At the beginning of the migration process, information sessions try to prevent irregular migration from the Philippines. NGOs, the mass media and the church play a major role in providing pre-departure information.

The Philippines has entered into manpower agreements with 12 host countries. Those with Middle Eastern countries cover cooperation in the fields of labour, employment and personnel development and the enhancement of the welfare, well-being and rights of workers. The Philippines government exerts ongoing pressure on countries to ensure adequate protection of the rights of all its migrant workers and their families.

The UK Government is committed to working with others to enhance the human rights of poor people and support implementation of the UN human rights treaties (White Paper on International Development, 2000).<sup>71</sup> For example, DFID is currently funding the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) **Regional Programme on Empowering Women Migrant Workers in Asia** which advocates with regional bodies such as the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) for better protective measures for women migrants. While governments are entitled to regulate inward migration, to meet economic needs and combat irregular migration, this must be done in a way that is compatible with upholding the basic human rights of all migrants, whatever their status.

**DFID will work with development partners to promote safe and legal migration, which includes non-discriminatory legislation, policies and practice to protect the human rights and national entitlements of men, women and children who migrate.**

<sup>71</sup> DFID(1997). The 1997 White Paper *International Development, Eliminating World Poverty*.

**Until recently migration and development have been treated as very separate policy areas.** The priorities for migration authorities have been to control the movement of people and integrate regular migrants into national labour markets and wider society. For development professionals, particularly those involved in rural development and urban planning, migration has been viewed as a failure of development, as people leave their communities despite programmes and projects to help them improve their lives in their home areas.

The increasing recognition that migration and development are linked means more sophisticated policy approaches are now needed. The objectives of both fields are more likely to be achieved if migration and development policies begin to acknowledge the benefits and risks of migration for poor people and developing countries.

The issue of migration must be better integrated into poverty reduction policy and practice. Those involved in international development should understand migration issues and the implications these issues have for developing country policy and development more generally. This understanding should be reflected in country and regional planning documents and programmes. Development efforts should also include support to partner governments to develop national legislation and the institutional capacity to manage and facilitate the flow of migrants for the benefit of poor men and women, national economies and social and political improvement.

**DFID's efforts to maximise benefits and minimise the risks of migration will require it to work in partnership with key migration organisations.** It will continue to work with regional organisations, including the African Union and the European Union, and at international level to support migration policy and practice that takes account of the benefits and risks for poor people and developing countries. DFID, working with other government departments, contributed to preparations for the UN High Level Dialogue on International Migration and Development in September 2006, and the EU – Africa Ministerial conferences on Migration and Development in Rabat and Tripoli in 2006.

### Increasing the benefits of regional migration

**Governments of developing countries and regional institutions have an important role to play in supporting the development and poverty reduction benefits that can come from migration.** One of the most effective ways they can do this is by placing migration within the field of regional cooperation and making it a central part of their efforts to promote economic unions between countries in the same region. A number of such agreements in developing regions have moved hesitantly towards this approach.

### Box 10: Regional agreements

The 1975 treaty of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) set out a long-term objective to establish a community citizenship. However, economic recession in the 1980s caused a backlash against immigrants. Although the revised ECOWAS treaty in 1992 affirmed the right of citizens of the community to enter, reside and settle in member states, this has not been fully implemented. The Southern African Development Community (SADC) has protocols on movement of people. In 1995 it stated its intention to create a southern African economic community with free movement of people by 2000, but the outcomes have not matched the initial promises.

**Regional policy dialogue is also an important part of raising awareness of and responding effectively to the outcomes migration has on poverty reduction and development.** A number of regional consultative migration processes have been put in place to informally discuss migration issues. These include the Migration Dialogue for Southern Africa (MIDSA) and the Manila Process in Asia. Opportunities for ongoing regional dialogue that take account of migration and its impacts on poor people and development are extremely important. In 2005, DFID funded a **ministerial meeting of regional labour ministers in Manila** aimed at building a more informed regional consensus on the priorities for policy reform around migration and development.

Developing and using the evidence to inform regional migration policy is an essential part of getting regional approaches right. Policy and research networks make an important contribution to the evidence base and to informing decision-makers. DFID has funded a number of initiatives aimed at improving the evidence base for better pro-poor migration policies. In Africa, DFID has supported the **Southern Africa Migration Project (SAMP)** since 2002. This is a partnership linking organisations across southern Africa working to support new national and regional approaches and policies on migration in the SADC region. Similar research and policy activities have also taken place through funding to the **Refugee and Migratory Movements Research Unit (RMMRU) and the University of Ghana** through a programme of work to build southern capacity, managed by the Migration, Poverty and Globalisation Research Centre at Sussex University.

**DFID will support the development and implementation of regional migration management frameworks and processes in Asia and Africa, particularly where they support new and existing economic agreements and facilitate the positive benefits of migration for poor people and developing countries.**

## UK policy coherence and working within the European Union

**In February 2005 the Home Office published the UK's five-year strategy for asylum and immigration, complemented by the publication in July 2006 of the Home Office Immigration and Nationality Directorate Review.**<sup>72</sup> DFID will work with colleagues in the Home Office, Foreign and Commonwealth Office and the Treasury to ensure that the Government approach to managed migration takes account of poverty-reduction and development outcomes.<sup>73</sup>

**Migration is and will continue to be an important part of relations between the European Union (EU) and developing countries to which we give development assistance.** Current demand for migrants in EU member states is fuelled by labour market shortages and demographic change such as low fertility rates and ageing populations. The EU recognises that migration could play an important role in helping it to achieve the ambitious economic reform objectives agreed at the Lisbon European Council in 1999.

**EU migration and asylum policies are beginning to take account of development issues and vice versa.** In December 2002 the European Commission adopted a Communication that began to explain the links between migration and development.<sup>74</sup> The Hague Programme<sup>75</sup> reinforced these links and the Commission has now put forward concrete proposals looking at the 'root causes of migration and poverty alleviation'.<sup>76</sup>

**It is important that policy and activity on migration take account of the factors that lead to migration in both the sending and receiving countries.** Further work to ensure coherence between migration and development will need to be developed and implemented for the benefit of both the EU and partner countries. Evidence suggests that agreements on migration take time to negotiate and only work if they are part of a broader cooperation agenda. The EU's current emphasis is on having a coherent and integrated approach to migration and development issues, through partnership with developing countries.

<sup>72</sup> Home Office (2005). *Controlling our Borders: Making Migration Work for Britain*.

<sup>73</sup> DFID White Paper *Making Governance Work for the Poor* 2006.

<sup>74</sup> Communication from the Commission to the Council and the European Parliament: *Integrating migration issues in the European Union's relations with third countries – Draft Council conclusions on migration and development*. 5 May 2003. 8927/03.

<sup>75</sup> Presidency Conclusions. Brussels European Council. 4/5 November 2004. 14292/04.

<sup>76</sup> Communication from the Commission on Migration and Development: *Some concrete orientations*. 6 September 2005. 11978/05.

**DFID will continue to work with other UK government departments and support EU efforts to approach migration and development policy coherently. DFID will work to ensure that UK and EU policies take account of the impact on poverty reduction and development in partner countries.**

### **International management of migration**

**Unmanaged movement of migrants can undermine the economic development of developing countries and lead to negative migration experiences for the migrant.** In all countries, unregulated inflows of a large number of migrants can lead to political and social problems. Given these kinds of economic, political and social impacts, effective cooperation to manage migration is becoming more urgent for all countries providing or receiving migrants, or those through which they pass.

While there is **no global institutional framework that addresses the full spectrum of international migration in a comprehensive and systematic manner**, a range of organisations are currently conducting work related to migration. This probably reflects the difficulties and complexities that surround the migration debate. DFID, with other government departments, has worked in partnership with the International Organisation for Migration, the ILO and the World Bank to better understand and respond to the migration and development agenda. DFID has also worked with the independent Global Commission on International Migration to support its Africa hearing and its work on gender. The Commission was tasked with taking forward the Doyle Report (2002) on migration management within the UN system. Its report published in October 2005 calls for the recognition of ‘the role that migrants play in promoting development and poverty reduction in countries of origin, as well as the contribution they make towards the prosperity of destination countries’. The report also notes that ‘international migration should become an integral part of national, regional and global strategies for economic growth, in both the developing and developed world’. These issues and others were discussed at the UN High Level Dialogue on International Migration and Development in September 2006. The outcome was positive. It was agreed that a Global Forum on international migration and development would continue this dialogue and share good practice. DFID, the Home Office and the Foreign Office are co-operating to ensure the UK proactively participates in that Forum and in discussions to prepare for its first meeting in the summer of 2007 in Belgium.

**DFID will work with international migration organisations to ensure the dialogue and debate on migration acknowledge the need to maximise the benefits and minimise the risks of migration for poor people and developing countries.**

# Migration can benefit the poor: the forward agenda for DFID

DFID believes that actions to allow the movement of people deserve as much attention as the movement of capital, goods and services, to enable the benefits of globalisation to be sustained and shared equitably. We remain focused on our mission to promote progress towards the MDGs and reduce poverty. We recognise that migration, particularly when it takes place inside countries or involves the movement of people within defined regions, can help to reduce poverty and contribute to economic growth. At the same time, providing individuals with choices in terms of how they make a living, makes staying at home a viable option and can prevent migration from becoming peoples' only choice. DFID is already supporting a variety of activities that aim to enhance the benefits of migration for poor people and developing countries. By focusing on poverty reduction, our aid programme will also be helping to reduce the circumstances that make people feel they have no alternative other than to migrate. We will continue to build on our experience and incorporate efforts to address migration into development policies and programmes.

We will work in partnership with governments, donors, international agencies, NGOs and other Whitehall departments, as the most effective way of taking forward work on migration and development. The characteristics of migration are often specific to the particular situation and while the potential impact of human mobility on poverty reduction is significant, it is not yet possible to draw definitive conclusions. To do this the evidence base in developing countries needs to be strengthened through the implementation of programmes that address the range of migration issues. Important in this will be support from the international community to developing countries wishing to improve their capacity to manage migration. DFID will work with others to address the following priorities:

## **Enhance the poverty-reduction and development benefits by planning for migration:**

- **DFID will work with partner governments, donors and civil society including trade unions, to encourage the inclusion of migration in country-led plans that address poverty reduction and development.** We will continue to build the evidence base on the potential role of migration as part of a wider poverty-reduction plan. We will analyse the potential role migration can play in DFID's regional directors' delivery plans. We will look at ways to integrate migration into Country Assistance Plans for our country programming where appropriate.

- **DFID will continue to support the efforts of developing countries and international agencies to increase the poverty-reduction and development benefits of remittances.** We will continue to support remittance partnership programmes with Nigeria, Ghana and Bangladesh to develop better access to information and improved remittance distribution mechanisms for migrants, as well as improving financial sector access for the poor, and supporting central banks and government for payment systems. In the UK we will expand the number of countries on the ‘Send money home’ website, and continue dialogue with the private sector and UK government departments to address regulatory and data concerns.
- **DFID will extend and develop further its work with the range of UK diasporas and civil society networks including the international labour movement in order to strengthen its partnership in support of activities that promote poverty reduction and development in developing countries.** We will take forward the recommendations of the *Framework for DFID-Diaspora Engagement* report (August 2005) that looked at DFID’s involvement with diaspora groups. We will also work to better understand the social and political impacts of migration. This will include trans-national networks and the links migrants develop and maintain beyond national boundaries. We will meet diaspora groups and NGOs twice a year to discuss migration and wider policy. We will continue to explore the concept of raising capital from diaspora communities for investment in the private sector of developing countries.

### **Managing migration to support the benefits to poor people and developing countries:**

- **DFID will work in a limited number of ‘focus’ countries to support partner governments’ initiatives to develop managed migration policies that aim to reduce the risks and enhance the benefits of internal migration for poor people.** This could include improving national data on migration, increasing research capacity, developing dialogue on migration policy between governments and civil society organisations (NGOs, trade unions, research institutes) including the migrants themselves, improving access to information, or developing innovative initiatives to support internal migrants in places of origin and destination.

- **DFID will work with others, to support increased opportunities for both skilled and low-skilled workers, that take into account the labour market needs of receiving countries. DFID will work to improve conditions for poor migrant men and women, and to improve conditions in their countries or places of origin and destination.** We will undertake research on the extent to which migrants are able to take their benefits (such as pensions), with them when they move. We will also support efforts to build the expertise of developing-country governments to effectively negotiate with all interested countries on services within the World Trade Organisation including on GATS Mode 4.
- **DFID will support long-term investments to rebuild and strengthen systems that deliver health services including actions that help to reduce the permanent loss of health professionals.** We will learn the lessons from the Malawi Emergency Human Resources Programme and see if they can be applied elsewhere. We will, working with other government departments, undertake a review of the effectiveness of the UK's Code of Practice on development objectives.

**Working with regional and national institutions:**

- **DFID will work with development partners to promote safe and legal migration, which includes non-discriminatory legislation, policies and practice to protect the human rights and national entitlements of men, women and children who migrate.** We will support UNIFEM's regional programme in Asia to empower women migrant workers.
- **DFID will support the development and implementation of regional migration management frameworks and processes across Asia and Africa, particularly where they support new and existing economic agreements and facilitate the positive benefits of migration for poor people and developing countries.** We will promote exchanges of good practice between national and regional organisations. We will support the efforts of the African Union to take forward the important elements of its Pan African Migration Framework and Common Position and support activities that help improve the evidence base on migration and development for developing regions.

- **DFID will continue to work with other UK government departments and support EU efforts to approach migration and development policy coherently and to ensure that policies take account of the impact on poverty reduction and development in partner countries.** We will work closely with other UK departments to monitor the effect of the UK's migration policy on development including the points-based approach that the UK announced in March 2006.<sup>77</sup> We will contribute to policy dialogue on migration within the EU and with specific member states, and seek to work with like-minded donors to create a more positive approach to migration as a development issue and as an important route out of poverty for poor people. We will also look at how development, demographics, and climate change impacts on patterns of migration at national, regional and international levels.
- **DFID will work with international organisations to ensure the dialogue and debate on migration acknowledges the need to maximise the benefits and minimise the risks of migration for poor people and developing countries.** We will work with international agencies including the World Bank and ILO to improve the evidence base on migration and development and support effective management of migration. We will work with academic and research organisations in the South, and continue to support the Migration Research Centre in Sussex University and their partners in Ghana, Egypt, Bangladesh and Albania until 2008.
- **DFID will be accountable** for implementing the policy set out in this paper by evaluating progress in 2010.

<sup>77</sup> DFID White Paper 'Making Governance Work for the Poor' 2006

## References

1. Anti-Slavery International website – <http://www.antislavery.org>.
2. Barber, C., Pattison, K. and Davey, E. (2004). *South – South Migration: A Synthesis Report*.
3. Black, R., Natali, C. and Skinner, J. (2005). *Migration and Inequality*. University of Sussex.
4. Bhabha, J. (2005). *Trafficking, Smuggling and Human Rights*. Harvard University.
5. Chikezie, C-E. and Thakrar, B. (2005). *Framework for DFID-Diaspora Engagement: A Report for DFID*.
6. Communication from the Commission to the Council and the European Parliament: *Integrating Migration Issues in the European Union's Relations with Third Countries – Draft Council Conclusions on Migration and Development*. 5 May 2005. 8927/03.
7. Communication from the Commission on Migration and Development: *Some concrete orientations*. 6 September 2005. 11978/05.
8. Deshingkar, P. and Grimm, S. (2004) *Voluntary Internal Migration: An Update*. Overseas Development Institute.
9. Development Research Centre on Migration, Globalisation and Poverty (2004). *Migration and pro-poor policies in Africa*. A report co-ordinated by Richard Black, Final Report.
10. DFID (1997). The 1997 White Paper on International Development. *Eliminating World Poverty: a Challenge for the 21st Century*.
11. DFID (2000). The 2000 White Paper on International Development. *Eliminating Poverty: Making Globalisation Work for the Poor*.
12. DFID (2004). *Statistics in International Development*.
13. DFID (2005). *Reducing poverty by tackling social exclusion*.
14. Economists Intelligence Unit (2006). Bangladesh Country Profile.
15. Government of India (2004). Non-Resident Indians and Persons of Indian Origin Division. Ministry of External Affairs
16. Hildebrandt, N. (2004). *The Effects of Migration on Child Health in Mexico*. Stanford University.
17. Home Office (2002). *The Migrant Population in the UK: Fiscal Effects*.
18. Home Office (2005). *Controlling our Borders: Making Migration Work for Britain*.
19. House of Commons (2004). *Migration and Development: How to make migration work for poverty reduction*. Sixth Report of Session 2003–04. International Development Committee.

20. ILO (2004). *Fair Deal for Migrants*.
21. IOM (2002). *A Study on Remittance Inflows and Utilisation*.
22. IOM (2003). *World Migration 2003. Managing Migration: Challenges and Responses for People on the Move*.
23. IOM (2004). *International Migration Law: Glossary on Migration*.
24. IOM (2005). *Internal Migration and Development: A Global Perspective*. Migration Research Series, No.19.
25. IOM (2005). *World Migration 2005. Costs and Benefits of International Migration*.
26. IOM (2005). *Migration and the Millennium Development Goals: Workshop Discussion Paper*.
27. Jolly, S. with Reeves, H. (2005). *Gender and Migration: Overview Report*. BRIDGE, Institute for Development Studies, University of Sussex.
28. Levitt, P. *Social Remittances – Culture as a development tool*. Wellesley College and Harvard University.
29. Mosse, D., Gupta, S., Mehta, M., Shah, V., Rees, J and the KRIBP Project Team (2002). *Brokered Livelihoods: Debt Labour Migration and Development in Tribal Western India*.
30. Newland, K. and Patrick, E. (2004). *Beyond Remittances: The Role of the Diaspora in Poverty Reduction in Their Countries of Origin. A Scoping Study*. Migration Policy Institute.
31. Norwegian Refugee Council/IDMC (2005). *Internal Displacement, Global Overview of Trends and Developments*.
32. Nyberg Sorensen, N. (2004). *The Development Dimension of Migrant Remittances*. Working Paper Series, Migration Policy Research, IOM
33. OECD (2006). *AID Charts*. <http://www.oecd.org>
34. O’Neil, K. (2004). *Labour Export as Government Policy: The Case of the Philippines*. Migration Policy Institute.
35. Ozden, C. and Schiff, M. (editors) (2005). *International Migration, Remittances & Brain Drain*. World Bank.
36. Presidency Conclusions: Brussels European Council 4/5 November 2004. 14292/04.
37. Ratha, D. (2005). *Understanding the Importance of Remittances*. World Bank.
38. Siddiqui, T. (2004). *Migration and Millennium Development Goals; DFID-RMMRU Partnership*. Refugee and Migratory Movements Research Unit. University of Dhaka.
39. Skeldon, R. (2005). *Globalisation, Skilled Migration and Poverty Alleviation: Brain Drain in Context*. Working Paper T15. Development Research Centre on Migration, Globalisation and Poverty, University of Sussex.

40. Stanton Russell, S. *International Migration: Implications for the World Bank*. HCO Working Papers, HROWP54, World Bank.
41. Stiger, E. and Monsutti, A. (2005). *Transnational Networks: Recognising a Regional Reality*. Afghan Research and Evaluation Unit.
42. UN (2004). *Worldwide Survey on the Role of Women in Development*.
43. Whitehead, A. and Hashim, I. (2005). *Children and Migration: Background Paper for DFID Migration Team*.
44. Whitehead, A., (2005). *Independent Child Migration: Reconciling Children's Experiences with Policy*.
45. World Bank (2005). *Global Development Finance 2005: Mobilizing Finance and Managing Vulnerability*.
46. World Bank (2006). *Equity and Development*. World Development Report.
47. World Bank (2006). *Global Economic Prospects*.
48. Wyss, B. (2004). *Global Poaching: Jamaica's Brain Drain*. *Econ Atrocity Bulletin*, 30 January. <http://www.fguide.org/Bulletin/BrainDrain.htm>.
49. Zachariah, Kannan and Rajan. *Kerala's Gulf Connection*. Centre of Development Studies on International Migration, Kerala State, India. CDS Thiruvananthapuram, 2002.



